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August 3.

The President, Dr. Ruschenberger, in the chair.

Seventeen members present.

The following papers were presented for publication:—

"On the Batrachia and Reptilia obtained during the Exploration of Talamanca, Costa Rica, by Wm. M. Gabb." By Edw. D. Cope.

"On the Reptilia obtained by Dr. John M. Bransford, U. S. N., during the survey of Nicaragua of 1874." By Edw. D. Cope.

"Studies of the American Falconidæ." By Robt. Ridgway. "No. III. Monograph of the genus Micrastur."

"On the Food and Nidification of certain North American Birds." By Thomas G. Gentry.

"On the occurrence of Uranium, Silver, Iron, etc., in the Tertiary Formation of Colorado Territory." By E. L. Berthoud.

On the Cretaceous Beds of the Galisteo.—Prof. Cope laid on the table a stitched copy of his memoir on the vertebrate fauna of the cretaceous period in the west, being Vol. II. of the 4to. series of Hayden's Reports of the U. S. Geological Survey of the Territories.

Prof. Cope made some remarks on a paper recently published by the American Philosophical Society, entitled the Geological Relations of the Lignitic Groups of the Cretaceous, by Prof. John J. Stevenson. While he regarded the paper as a valuable contribution to the literature of the subject, he thought that some assertions of the author required notice. Thus his remark that vertebrate life is too imperfectly preserved to be ordinarily of much service alone [in fixing geological horizons] could not be concurred in by students of the extinct *vertebrata*. A similar statement respecting fossil remains of plant-life is the following: "Such is the record of plant-life—a record little better than a blank, with here and there a few markings, many of which are too indistinct to be deciphered." This view would naturally not be acceptable to students of fossil plants, nor could it in the nature of things be true. Plants offer too many tangible structural features to be worthless as evidence, and the only remark which can be justly made in criticism of the paleophytologists is that they have not always correlated their results with those of the paleontologists. The failure to insist on the tertiary character of the vegetation of the Fort Union beds of the West, would have rendered less prominent the most important generalization yet derived from the study of that horizon, viz., that a cretaceous fauna was contemporary with a tertiary flora.

Prof. Cope took the opportunity of correcting a misapprehension which had arisen with respect to the age of the Galisteo sandstones of New Mexico. Prof. Stevenson remarks that "a careful comparison of this section, as given by Dr. Hayden, with the details of the geology along Dr. Newberry's route from Santa Fe westward, as given in Ives' report, will, I think, satisfy everybody that Dr. Hayden has by some oversight inverted the order, and that the Galisteo group underlies the coal group. The Galisteo group is unquestionably the Triassic, as abundantly appears from the description of that system in New Mexico, by Newberry and Leconte." Prof. Cope had studied the Galisteo sandstone both on Galisteo Creek and on the eastern slope of the Zandia Mountains. In both localities he found it to underlie cretaceous No. 3, without the intervention of a coal bed. He therefore supposed it to be above the coal, as stated by Dr. Hayden, and a member of the cretaceous series, differing from some of the beds only in its red color. Its resemblance to the Trias he believed to be accidental.

The death of Wm. E. Whitman was announced.

August 10.

The President, Dr. Ruschenberger, in the chair.

Nineteen members present.

August 17.

The President, Dr. Ruschenberger, in the chair.

Fifteen members present.

August 24.

The President, Dr. Ruschenberger, in the chair.

Sixteen members present.

August 31.

The President, Dr. Ruschenberger, in the chair.

Twenty-two members present.

A paper entitled "On the Fossil Remains of Reptiles and Fishes from Illinois," by E. D. Cope, was presented for publication.